

**Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2017 - 7:15 p.m.
Trumbull Town Hall**

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Chairman: Ralph Sather

Present: Evelyn Zamarly - Secretary, Beryl Kaufman, Christopher Loomam, Shelby LeVino

Not Present: Jackie Galiani, Eric Michel, Mark Smith, Michael Iaccarino,

Public: Paul Griffith

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and made a motion to approve the September 5th meeting minutes. Ms. Zamarly accepted the motion, seconded by Ms. Kaufman and they were unanimously approved by the Commission.

The October 3, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed. Since the meeting had no quorum, the minutes did not require approval.

Annual Breakfast Recap

Chairman Sather commented that the breakfast event was our best event ever with terrific attendance, and a great speaker. He thanked the Commission for their help. Ms. Kaufman noted Mr. Broadwater was definitely a draw. Ms. Bakalar advised that next year we may want to consider a larger room and possibly enlist sponsorships. She recommended meeting earlier in the year to discuss the budgetary options and Chairman Sather and Ms. Zamarly were in agreement.

Ms. Bakalar advised she forwarded a link to attendees interested in purchasing Mr. Broadwater's book.

Ms. Bakalar noted there was a representation of corporations, small businesses and home businesses. Ms. Bakalar advised she thanked Pam Georges, Pam's Cookies for her contribution to the breakfast.

Director's Report

Business Development Update

Liv's Gifts (formerly Flourishes) – is undergoing renovation and is opening soon.

Two businesses are opening in Trumbull Center: Fatty Pattys (hotdog/hamburger venue) within the next 2 months and Sikorsky Credit Union.

The former Marissa's site redevelopment is moving quickly and they will be coming to Planning & Zoning soon.

Ms. Bakalar informed she regularly speaks at real estate offices and spoke at Raveis (Trumbull Center) today. She advises on development, grants, planning efforts, new businesses opening and they in turn furnish feedback. Ms. Bakalar stated she also attended the BNI (Business Networking Group), and commented that both groups contribute to the growth of our ECDC database.

Ms. Bakalar announced she will be attending the New York Retail Showcase in December. She informed that it is attended by national retailers and she will be bringing profiles and specs of properties in town and setting up appointments.

Planning Update

Ms. Bakalar advised the consultant for the regulation revision is meeting with the Conservation Commission tonight. Chairman Sather and Mr. Loomam are on the sub-committee and attended the first meeting. Mr. Sather noted it will be a complete regulation re-write and stressed the importance of our regulations being user friendly and in line with the POCD.

Long Hill Green Plan – An October 5th public meeting was held. Ms. Bakalar advised that the right hand turn lane from Whitney Avenue to Main Street received good support in the public discussion and will be proceeding in the near term. Plans have been submitted to the state for review. Funds have been allocated to construct the turn lane. Frank Smeriglio is the primary contact.

Housing Choice Plan is moving along and they will be coming back to P&Z in January. Ms. Bakalar is working with Mr. LeVino to secure funds for a pedestrian master plan. A meeting with MetroCog is planned.

Trail - There will be a presentation to the public at the Agriscience Biotechnology Center on Daniels Farm Road at 7:00 p.m. on 11/14/17 regarding the trail connector that is going from Tait Road thru the front of Trumbull Center down to the Veteran's Memorial.

Mr. Smeriglio, town engineer has been meeting with all property owners. The surveying and the planning and design is being completed.

BMX Nationals

We applied to the State Visitor & Convention Bureau and the BMX organization to host one of the BMX National weekends. Trumbull has been selected for the June 21, 2018 weekend.

\$5,000 in sponsorships are needed and we have already gotten commitments from People's Bank and the Carpenter's Union. Ms. Bakalar advised this is a family sport (youth to adults) which will benefit our restaurants, hotels and Long Hill Village. We

will be informing neighbors prior to the event. Chairman Sather suggested creating a program booklet detailing the lists of attractions and restaurants and sponsors and Ms. Bakalar advised BMX has a specific process and materials that we will learn more about on our next call. Ms. Kaufman suggested we contact the networks to cover the event. Chairman Sather encouraged the Commission to promote the benefits of the event and should consider a PR program.

There will be an internal meeting of Town staff as soon as the contract is in place. Mr. LeVino suggested it would be helpful if we can possibly obtain a list of objections from other towns where BMX held events. We will also need to coordinate with the Police and Fire Departments. Ms. Bakalar confirmed to Chairman Sather there will be space for vendors but BMX has very explicit guidelines for each aspect of the event. Another conference call with BMX is planned.

Ms. Bakalar noted the green light for the LOTCIP trail connector/trail head grant off Church Hill Road.

Arts/Placemaking – Ms. Bakalar announced that we have been asked to help with a 2 day conference on the arts and place making. She advised that she spoke at Fairfield and Norwalk and she has worked with David Green from the Fairfield County Cultural Commission. Towns (Stratford, Fairfield, Stamford, Norwalk) will be bringing a team and do a place making project and present it to funders to see if they would be interested. The conference is being held in January at the Stepping Stones Museum in Norwalk. If anyone is interested in being on the team - let her know.

Ms. Bakalar advised a team from Trumbull attended a 2 day housing institute in October and the towns of Fairfield, Ridgefield, Bethel and Trumbull were represented. Ms. Bakalar noted they brought housing experts and panel discussions focused on different locations to try to get people to think about housing choices.

Trumbull Mall - They are finalizing the project for the electric car charging stations, which will be located to the left of Target on Main Street near the retaining wall. A ribbon cutting is planned. We secured a \$13,500 grant to support the project last year.

Wahlburgers- Mr. Loomer commented they are attracting large crowds and are very well managed. Chairman Sather added malls have become a destination, with the addition of restaurants being key. He noted they are vital to our grand list and are our major taxpayer. Ms. Kaufman stressed the importance of encouraging everyone to buy local. Mr. LeVino suggested the mall host events and Ms. Bakalar agreed a more campus type experience is needed.

Commissioner Loomer commented the mall is the only place available in Trumbull when the weather is bad and they should build on that asset. The following suggestions were offered: a permanent work out area, an outdoor track, activities for young children and a monitored play area, a winter farmer's market, Uber pick up/drop off area, and a public suggestion box.

Chairman Sather suggested ECDC select a quarterly topic to be published in the Trumbull Times or CT Post. The Trumbull Magazine, our newsletter and the town's Facebook page can also be utilized. Ms. Kaufman suggested having a column entitled "Did You Know" with brief bulleted items, recommending Mr. Broadwater's millennial points from his presentation. Ms. Zmary suggested inviting key guests speakers to our meetings since they are televised.

Tax Abatement – An application for an educational facility on Merritt Blvd. was submitted for review. If it meets basic eligibility, it will then be passed to the Committee.

Opportunity for Community Input

Paul Griffith informed the committee that he has put Trumbull on his NewYorkNewYork1 website for promotion.

Chairman Sather noted at our next meeting there will be an Election of Officers.

Commissioner LeVino informed there is a food truck (Cado's Egg Truck) in the commuter lot on White Plains Road next to Christian Heritage. He commented they have great food and were interested in coming up to move closer to the trail. Ms. Bakalar added there is a barbeque food truck looking to open a permanent restaurant on Rt. 25 in Trumbull. She also would like to promote Uber Eats.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 in the Long Hill Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka
Clerk